



## HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DUNCAN HUNTER – CHAIRMAN

### **PRESS RELEASE**

---

For Immediate Release:  
June 13, 2006

Contact: Josh Holly (202) 225-2539

### **CHAIRMAN HUNTER OPENING STATEMENT**

#### *Full Committee Hearing on H.R. 5200, the National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006.*

**Washington, D.C.** – This hearing is the result of a commitment I made during the committee’s mark-up in May of the “G. V. ‘Sonny’ Montgomery National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2007.” Then, the committee decided to defer action on H.R. 5200, the “National Defense Enhancement and National Guard Empowerment Act of 2006,” by asking the Commission on the National Guard and Reserves to report not later than March 1, 2007, on the advisability and feasibility of implementing H.R. 5200.

During the discussion of H.R. 5200 in committee, Members made clear their strong interest in an oversight effort to address problems and issues with the current system for structuring, equipping, manning, training and resourcing the National Guard, not only for missions conducted in accordance with title 10, United States Code, under the control of the Secretary of Defense and the combatant commanders, but also for operations conducted by the National Guard, in accordance with title 32, United States Code, under the control of the governor of a state.

This hearing is part of that committee oversight effort to define and examine the issues and problems tied to National Guard – Department of Defense relationships and the national defense and homeland defense missions they carry out. We have two exceptional panels of witnesses today who are well qualified to help us begin to understand the challenges for improving the ability of the National Guard to meet the requirements of its federal and state missions.

###

<http://armedservices.house.gov/>